Partnership Activities and Outputs

Data-Informed Decisionmaking to Improve College and Career Preparation

(DID): Training and coaching for partners and selected Niswonger Foundation/school staff on using data to drive improvements related to inequities and closing performance gaps so all students graduate ready for postsecondary endeavors.

Supporting Improvements in College and Career Preparation through Data Use: Support partners to answer 1–2 meaningful research questions about selected college and career programs and practices and related student outcomes.

Expanding Career Success Preparation (CSP) Opportunities: Training and coaching for partners and school counselors to review current research on employability skills, codesign and launch a school-based network of employers, develop and support implementation of employability skills assessments, and incorporate the data on CSP opportunities and employability skills into academic planning.

Short-Term Outcomes (improvements in knowledge and capacity)

All DID project participants have greater understanding of how data can be used to investigate the relationship between program implementation and student outcomes.

All DID project participants have greater capacity to use various data sources to examine key evidence-based metrics related to students' preparation for college and careers.

District partners and district staff have greater capacity to use data to inform decisions about policies and practices to improve students' preparation for college and careers.

Niswonger and district partners increase their capacity to formulate research questions and assess data availability.

Niswonger and district partners increase their capacity to use research findings to inform decisionmaking.

Employability skills working group members have greater capacity to select instruments or tools to measure or assess employability skills.

District partners, district staff, and school counselors establish new connections within or outside of their organization or school related to CSP opportunities and employability skills. Medium-Term Outcomes (observable changes in practice or policy)

All DID project participants regularly monitor student progress on Ready Graduate metrics and related data on students' preparation for college and careers. Long-Term Outcomes (student progress toward goals, or precursors of progress)

All project participants (DID, research study, and CSP) use various data sources to monitor and strengthen implementation of evidence-based college and career preparation programs.

Counselors use new instruments or tools to measure or assess employability skills.

Niswonger partners, district partners, and counselors collaborate to establish a regional CSP network focused on highpriority employability skills.

Increased number of **students** who:

- Participate in high-
- quality CSP opportunities.
- Complete employability skills
 assessments.

Increased proportion of students who are college and career ready in partner districts.

Key

Niswonger partners: Foundation leaders/program developers District partners: District superintendents or their designees (for example, CTE directors) Niswonger staff: Staff responsible for data collection and analysis and college and career readiness programming District staff: District research staff/data analysts or district staff in CTE offices School counselors: College/career counselors at participating schools

Contextual Factors

Legislative and executive priorities/mandates | State/local teaching and learning context | Funding allocations | Data availability